issue of which it had issued the chequa of Rs. 60 crores. This brought the fraud to light. The bank has not suffered any loss. The bank has lodged an FIR with Delhi Police and the officer concerned in the branch has been arrested by the police and has also been placed under suspension by the bank.

(d) and (e) The information readily available relating to the total number of freinds reported by public sector banks to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) during 1991, 1992 and 1993 (upto September)

and action taken in respect of the employees convicted is given below :—

		1991	1992	1993
(i)	No. of frauds	1559	1717	612 (upto September) 1993)
(ii)	No. of employees convicted . . .	82	51	21 (upto June 1993)
(iii)	No. of employees given major/minor penalties	829	849	399 (upto June 1993)
(iv)	No. of employees out of (iii) above dismissed discharged/removed	289	275	141 (upto June 1993)

(data provisional)

The public sector banks at the instance of Government and RBI have taken several steps from time to time for prevention and prompt detection of frauds. These steps include issuing of comprehensive guidelines by RBI for strengthening the control mechanism in banks review of fraud cases on a continual basis by RBI, setting up of a Special Investigation Cell in RBI, proper training of operational personnel, etc. The banks have also been impressed upon to clear the arrears in balancing of books and reconcilation of inter-branch and other accounts on a continuous basis so as to prevent frauds in these areas. RBI also monitors the progress made by the banks in implementation of various accepted recommendations of the Ghosh Committee which enquired into various aspects relating to frauds and malpractices in banks.

NABARD Plan to Generate Employment

7531. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development has a plan to generate massive employment opportunities to the tune of 30 million jobs by the turn of the century;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the total contemplated investment therein; and

(c) the progress made by NABARD during the past two years, and the amount of investment made therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) The National Bank for Agriculture ad Rural Developmet (NABARD) has been financing, promoting and developing farm and non-farm activities particularly in rural areas. Several refinance and promotional schemes have been evolved for supporting Rural Non-Farm Sector (NFS). Although development of rural NFS helps in employment generation, NABARD has not fixed any definite target in terms of creation of employment opportunities in its refinance and promotional schemes. However, annual refinance targets are fixed for lending under production investment credit etc. Total refinance provided by NABARD since inception aggregated Rs. 15951 crores with an average annual growth at the rate of 23.6 per cent. It jumped from Rs. 703 crores in 1982-83 to Rs, 235*

crores in 1992-93. Current position is asunder :—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	NABARD Refinance
1992-93	2359
1993-94	2745
1994-95 (Allocation . .	2850

There has been a quantum jump in r«financ$_e$ support for short-term (Seasonal) Agricultural Operations) from Rs. 1347 crores (1982-83) to Rs. 3701 crores (1992-93). The current position of credit limits for SAO is $_a$s under:—

Year	State Coop. Bank:	Regional Rural Banks	Total
1993-94 (upto 31-12-93)	3260	373	3633
1994-95 (Estimated) .	32.00	400	4200

Closing of Bank branches in Hong Kong Kong

7532. SHRI VIRENDRA KATAR1A: Will the Minister of FINANCE be plea-led to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to close down some branches of nationalised banks in Hong Kong immediately is a move to rid them of their loss making branches; and

(b) if to, 'what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that after considering the recommendations of a team deputed by it to look into the viability of branches in Hong Kong it has been. decided to restructure the branch network of Indian basks in Hong Kong during 1994-95, RBI ha, accordiiln|gly advised the banks to close 3 out of 7 branches functioning in that country.

Fhal Payment of G P F to Former Employees of D O E

7533. SHRI PASUMPON THAKIRU-TTINAN: Will the Minister of FIN-ANCE be pleased to state;

(a) what are the details of cases for final payment of General Provident rund account pending in the Department of Expenditure;

(b) Whether Government have received any requests for clearance of GPF final payment cases pertaining to the former employees of the Department of Expenditure;

(c) if so, since when these cases have been pending and the reasons for the delay in clearing the same; and

(d) what steps are being taken for early disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (d) All applications received upto 31st May, 1994 for final payment of accumulations in the General Provident Fund from former employees of the Department of Expenditure have been cleared.

Central Approval for reliefs in Sales Tax in Delhi

7534. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAM-BHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: